

**Adam Stephen to George Washington, October 4, 1755,
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
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FROM COLONEL ADAM STEPHEN.

WINCHESTER Oct 4th. 1755

SIR,

Matters are in the most deplorable Situation at Fort Cumberland—Our Communcation with the Inhabitants is Cut off—By the best Judges of Indian affairs, it's thought there are at least 150 Indians about us—They divided into Small parties, have Cut off the Settlement of Paterson Creek, Potomack. Above Cresops, and the People on Town Ck about four miles below his house—They go about and Commit their Outrages at all hours of the Day and nothing is to be seen or heard of, but Desolation and murder heightened with all Barbarous Circumstances, and unheard of Instances of Cruelty. They Spare the Lives of the Young Women, and Carry them away to gratify the Brutal passions of Lawless Savages. The Smoke of the Burning Plantations darken the day, and hide the neighboring mountains from our sight—Frazer has lost two of his Family and moves to the Fort to do the Arms —

Ramsay the Cooper came up, and got Some money of Mr. McLean by Commisary Dutys Direction, went down again to bring up his Sons, on Tuesday last, but has never been heard of Since, at home, or at the Fort—So there is another Cooper to be looked for. I dispatched Barney Curran after Montour, who brought me an Account, that the last news receivd from him was at Great Island in Susquehanna, where at the Earnest Sollicitation,

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and by the warm assistance of Monocobbtter¹ he had assembled 300 Indians, and was intended agt the French and Indians in their Interest at Winingo.—He had Intelligence that there were very few of Either at that Place. —

Deprived of any hopes from that Quarter, I detached two men well acquainted with the Roads, to make the best discovery they Could, who have not yet returnd. —

Unless Relief is Sent to the Back inhabitants immediatly None will Stay on this side Monocasy or Winchester. —

The Magazine is Secured, and a Well Set about on the Fort—So many Alarms prevented the Work Going on with dispatch.—I have reason to believe Capt Dagworthy will look upon himself as Commanding Officer after You have joind the Troops.—The Province he Serves has 30 Effective men in the Service. I was attacked by the Indians on my way down, and lost a man. I Saved my Bacon by retreating to the Fort—The party who conveyd me yesterday discoved four'teen and fird upon them, but it was to late to pursue them. —

It is by all means adviseable to Send up all the Recruits Immediatly, untill we have men enough, to keep the Enemy in awe, So that they keep without Reach of our Sentries. —

I am with Respect Sir, Your most Obt huble Servt. ADAM STEPHEN

We are entirely acquainted with the Routes and Courses of these Bodies of Indians, but have not Men to spare to Intercept them—I detached a party of 25 men under Lt Bacon, Who came up w' them and prisoners, but was obligd to retreat w' the loss of two men —

I was apprisd of the Indians designd Attack, and Sent to My Lord Fairfax for 200 militia—alarming the South Branch² and all the Neighborhood—I made a pressing demand of the Militia Sunday Seven night—I heard My Lord was very Urgent, and assiduous in the Affair, but there is only a few Sent up under Capt Vorne—Had my directions been Observed by

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Harry Vanmeter, or the Militia Come from Fredrickb The Lives and Liberty of 100 people would have been saved.³

1 Monacatootha.

2 Of the Potomac.

3 Dinwiddie, writing to General Shirley at this time, stated that Fort Cumberland had not above 130 effective men, and that the enemy, hearing of the departure of the Regulars, had murdered, carried off, and burnt the houses of over 100 people.